

Lincoln Gossip:

In answer to  
/the attached letter I asked Mr. Toffler  
to bring his daguerreotype which he did this week.  
A lively, confident little man, rather shabby, proud of  
his place, <sup>a</sup>dealer in historical objects.

He had the strangest bit of Lincolniana  
that I have ever encountered I think, a daguerreotype of  
Lincoln - unmistakably Lincoln - do not see how it could  
have been faked - <sup>at</sup>his death bed. Toffler thinks. Beside  
him a woman sitting. It is the form of Mary Lincoln, but  
the face is unfamiliar, that is, it is a little dim and  
I would not have recognized Mary Lincoln in it if the natural  
conclusion was not that it must be she. She is sitting at  
the right looking at the dead man, a fan in her hand. T's  
contention is that she is watching him dying, but he looks  
to me as if he were dead. This could not have been in the  
house opposite the theatre, as he claims, although I find he  
is pretty hazy about the events of the night. In the first  
place he is not in evening dress. If I was right, and I was  
pretty particular in those days <sup>about</sup>saying in my Life of  
Lincoln, that she was "in evening gown, flowers in her hair,  
jewels on her neck", than <sup>h</sup>this daguerreotype was certainly  
not taken at the <sup>Trent</sup>house. Moreover, this is a  
calm woman. Mrs. Lincoln was over-whelmed, close to hysterics  
most of that night. Certainly she could not have been sitting  
there as she is in this picture.

